

House Resolution

No. 42

Introduced by Assembly Member Pacheco

February 12, 2004

House Resolution No. 42—Relative to eating disorders.

1 WHEREAS, Research shows that eating disorders are on the
2 rise in Western societies; and

3 WHEREAS, According to the National Eating Disorders
4 Association, 5 to 10 million girls and women and approximately
5 one million boys and men are struggling with eating disorders,
6 including anorexia, bulimia, and other related conditions in the
7 United States; and

8 WHEREAS, Anorexia is characterized by self-starvation and
9 excessive weight loss, which can be serious and potentially
10 life-threatening; and

11 WHEREAS, Bulimia is defined as a secretive cycle of binge
12 eating and purging through the use of vomiting, laxative abuse,
13 and over-exercising; and

14 WHEREAS, An estimated 1,000 women die each year
15 nationally from anorexia nervosa; and

16 WHEREAS, More than one-half of teenage girls are, or think
17 they should be, on diets; and

18 WHEREAS, Anorexia Nervosa and Related Eating Disorders,
19 Inc. states that anorexia and bulimia can affect people as young as
20 six years of age and as old as 76 years of age; and

21 WHEREAS, Eating disorders can be attributed to genetic,
22 social, and psychological factors; and

1 WHEREAS, Eating disorders can cause serious health
2 problems, including, but not limited to, heart disease, Type II
3 diabetes mellitus, and death from medical complications; and

4 WHEREAS, Type II diabetes mellitus occurs when the body
5 does not produce enough insulin or the cells ignore insulin, leading
6 to a buildup of glucose in the blood and starving the cells of energy,
7 which increases one's risk of serious medical complications; and

8 WHEREAS, Many eating disorders go untreated due to the
9 secretive nature of the diseases; and

10 WHEREAS, Early detection and intervention is necessary for
11 effective treatment of eating disorders; and

12 WHEREAS, Medical professionals, educators, and counselors
13 who are trained to recognize the symptoms and underlying causes
14 of eating disorders can more efficiently diagnose and treat
15 sufferers; now, therefore, be it

16 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California*, That the
17 Legislature encourages greater research and additional training for
18 medical professionals, counselors, and educators in recognizing,
19 diagnosing, and treating eating disorders; and be it further

20 *Resolved*, That the State of California urges Congress and the
21 President of the United States to consider these delicate medical
22 conditions and provide federal resources to fight this epidemic
23 nationwide; and be it further

24 *Resolved*, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly shall transmit
25 copies of this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.

